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LETTER DATED 24 MARCH 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, and further to my letter No. 1/6/95, dated 20 March 1993, I have the honour to transmit a letter from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, dated 22 March 1993, giving notification of the violation of Iraqi airspace in the northern region by six Iranian military aircraft, which bombed inhabited areas, killing a number of Iraqi Kurdish citizens.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the aforesaid annexed letter of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 22 March 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

On 13 March 1993, six Iranian military aircraft violated Iraqi airspace and bombed inhabited areas of northern Iraq, killing a number of Iraqi Kurdish citizens. One of the sites bombed by the Iranian military aircraft was a hospital; as a result, one hospital in-patient was killed, other in-patients were injured and the hospital was seriously damaged. A number of French volunteers from two French organizations, namely Doctors of the World and International Medical Assistance, were among the eyewitnesses to the Iranian air raids.

The Iranian military aircraft carried out their attack on northern Iraq in the air exclusion zone imposed on Iraq by the United States, Britain and France since 27 June 1991.

The attack by the Iranian military aircraft on northern Iraq and the killing of a number of Iraqi Kurdish citizens provide fresh evidence of the serious dangers threatening Iraq's independence and territorial integrity. Furthermore, having been preceded by a series of hostile acts, this Iranian attack was not the first and will not be the last. While the Iranian regime is frantically arming itself to the point where it now possesses an extremely large arsenal of conventional and unconventional weapons, the policy of harassing Iraq, interfering in its internal affairs and imposing the so-called Iraqi air exclusion zone in northern and southern Iraq still continues. This policy imposed on Iraq, which is damaging to stability and security in the region, has encouraged Iran to carry out hostile military acts against Iraq.

The Iranian danger to the security and territorial integrity of Iraq and the safety of its people is constantly escalating and warrants serious concern. We therefore ask you to adopt a forthright position in support of Iraq's request for revocation of the measures taken by the Governments of the United States, Britain and France imposing the air exclusion zones in northern and southern Iraq. To revoke those measures is the only way to preserve the integrity and security of Iraq and the safety of its people. It will also contribute to stability and the normalization of security in the region, particularly since all the allegations used as a basis for imposing such measures on Iraq have been unequivocally proven to be groundless and devoid of truth.

We should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq